Police Department Take-Home Vehicles
Scope Statement – November 17, 2015

Kansas City, Missouri Police Department Fleet

The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department purchases vehicles for use in department operations. The department spent more than $1 million annually to purchase vehicles in fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015. In May 2015, the department's fleet contained over 890 vehicles, including sedans, SUVs, trucks, vans, and motorcycles.

Why audit Police Department Take-Home Vehicles?

More than half of the vehicles owned by the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department are authorized as take-home vehicles. According to the department's procedures, take-home vehicles are assigned to employees with standby and call back responsibilities; to increase visibility in the community; and because of parking and security issues.

The department allocates significant resources to take-home vehicles. Take-home vehicle expenses include vehicle acquisition costs, maintenance and repair, and fuel costs. Using police vehicles for commuting or personal business increases the risk of accident or injury claims, and can raise potential tax liability issues. Allocating department resources to take-home vehicles also reduces the funds available for other department activities.

Audit objective

Our objective is to answer the following question:

- How does the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department's take-home vehicle program impact its allocation of vehicle resources?

Audit methods

We will analyze Police Department vehicle data and cost information, including vehicle acquisition, maintenance and repair, fuel, and other vehicle related costs. We will review the department's take-home vehicle procedures, use of vehicle reports for civilian employees, and accident and damage information on take-home vehicles. We will interview department staff on the assignment and use of take-home vehicles. We will exclude undercover vehicles from our analyses.

Anticipated release date

We plan to issue the audit report in February 2016.